Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purified polypeptide immunogen consisting of either (a) ~~comprising~~ an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, or (b) a fragment of said amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, where said fragment comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1~~,~~ wherein said polypeptide immunogen provides protective immunity against *S. aureus* ~~and wherein if one or more additional polypeptide regions are present said additional regions do not provide a carboxyl terminus containing amino acids 609-645 of SEQ ID NO: 2~~.

Claim 2 (canceled):

Claim 3 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1~~2~~, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of either (a) an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, or (b) a fragment of said amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said fragment comprises ~~thereof comprising~~ an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 42.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A ~~The~~ polypeptide immunogen ~~of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide consists essentially~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42, each with up to 20 additional amino acids, wherein the additional 20 amino acids can be located at the carboxyl or amino terminus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 5 wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An immunogen ~~comprising~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1~~, wherein said immunogen consists of said amino acid sequence~~ and one or more additional regions or moieties covalently joined to said sequence at the carboxyl terminus or the amino terminus, wherein each of said one or more additional regions or moieties ~~moiety~~ is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A composition able to induce a protective immune response against *S. aureus* in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of ~~the~~ a purified polypeptide immunogen that provides protective immunity against *S. aureus* ~~of claim 1~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the polypeptide immunogen consists of either (a) an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, or (b) a fragment of said amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, where said fragment comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 9 (original): The composition of claim 8, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

Claims 10-32 (canceled):

Claim 33 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 25 amino acid alterations.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 33, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 34, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 35, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8, wherein said ~~A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the~~ polypeptide immunogen consists of either (a) an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, or (b) a fragment of said amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, where said fragment comprises an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1. ~~of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier~~

Claim 38 (currently amended): The composition of claim 37, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8, wherein said ~~A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the~~ polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 25 amino acid alterations ~~of claim 33 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier~~.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The composition of claim 39, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8, wherein said ~~A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the~~ polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations ~~of claim 34 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier~~.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The composition of claim 41, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8, wherein said ~~A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the~~ polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations. ~~of claim 35 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

Claim 44 (currently amended): The composition of claim 43, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8, wherein said ~~A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the~~ polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1. ~~of claim 36 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

Claim 46 (currently amended): The composition of claim 45, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 47 (new): The composition of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42, each with up to 20 additional amino acids, wherein the additional 20 amino acids can be located at the carboxyl or amino terminus.

Claim 48 (new): The composition of claim 47, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42.

Claim 49 (New): The immunogen of claim 7, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 25 amino acid alterations.

Claim 50 (New): The immunogen of claim 49, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 51 (New): The immunogen of claim 50, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 52 (New): The immunogen of claim 51, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 53 (new): The immunogen of claim 7, wherein said amino acid sequence consists of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42, each with up to 20 additional amino acids, wherein the additional 20 amino acids can be located at the carboxyl or amino terminus.

Claim 54 (new): The immunogen of claim 53, wherein said amino acid sequence consists of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42.